

Message Text

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EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT AGREEMENT

REF: SAN JOSE 3933

1. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES GOCR SIGNING OF THE 1976 MEAT IM-
PORT AGREEMENT AND APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS IN
COMPLETING THIS NEGOTIATION.

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2. EMBASSY AND GOCR SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AS OF JULY 24, OFFICIAL CUSTOMS MONITORINGS SHOW IMPORTS OF COSTA RICAN MEATS TO US AT 44.9 MILLION POUNDS. IF COSTA RICAN SHIPMENTS CONTINUE AT A RATE EQUAL TO THAT RECORDED DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 27 - JULY 24, COSTA RICA WILL REACH ITS CURRENT 1976 ALLOCATION OF 53.7 MILLION POUNDS BY THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS OF THIS SITUATION AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNE MOMENT IN ORDER THAT COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE TIMELY ACTION WELL IN ADVANCE OF SEPTEMBER 24 TO PREVENT OVERSHIPMENT RATHER THAN FORCE USG TO LIMIT IMPORTS OF COSTA RICAN MEAT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE 1976 VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT. IN ANY CASE, WE WANT TO BE SURE TO CONSULT IN THIS MANNER WITH THE GOCR, AS CALLED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT, BEFORE SUCH ACTION BECOMES NECESSARY.

4. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT USEFUL, DEPT. WOULD CONSIDER SENDING AN OFFICER VERSED IN MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM TO SAN JOSE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS. THESE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD LATER THIS MONTH OR FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. KISSINGER

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